

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06324 031537Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-05 /080 W

-----064129 040109Z /63

R 031340Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5919

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 6324

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: CARDINAL BLASTS EXTREMISM: REAFFIRMS CHURCH SOCIO-ECONOMIC
ROLE

1. CARDINAL RAUL SILVA HENRIQUEZ IN A FIERY SPEECH ON
AUGUST 1 DEFENDED THE CHURCH'S ACTIVIST ROLE ON BEHALF
OF THE CHILEAN WORKING CLASS, SAYING THAT IT SUPPORT
AND SPONSORSHIP OF LABOR WAS A LEGITIMATE EXPRESSION OF
THE CHURCH SOCIAL DOCTRINE. HE HIT AT EXTREMISTS ON BOTH
ENDS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, CLAIMING THAT BOTH ...
EXPLOIT THE MISERY, THE POVERTY, AND THE PAIN OF THE WORK-
ING CLASS." THE CARDINAL BORROWED THE GOVERNMENT'S DESCRIP-
TION OF SOVIET COMMUNISM AS "INTRINSICALLY
PERVERSE" BUT HE APPLIED IT TO BOTH MARXISM AND THE
RIGHT SINCE BOTH ARE ATHEISTIC.

2. THE OCCASION OF SILVA'S ADDRESS WAS A MASS COMMEMORAT-
ING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BELGIAN CARDINAL
JOSEPH CARDIJN, FOUNDER OF THE CATHOLIC YOUTH WORKERS (JOC)
MOVEMENT. ABOUT A DOZEN MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
AND A HUNDRED LABOR LEADERS ATTENDED. SEVERAL LEADERS,
AT ODDS WITH THE GOC'S LABOR POLICH, TOLD EMBOFFS LATER
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THAT THE SPEECH WAS "POSITIVE, FORTHRIGHT."

3. COMMENT: EMBOFFS WERE STRUCK BY THE STRONG AND VIGOROUS
TONE OF THE CARDINAL'S REMARKS. UNLIKE HIS LOW-KEY MAY
DAY MASS, HE WENT TO SOME LENGTH TO DEFEND THE CHURCH'S
TIES TO LABOR -- PERHAPS IN RESPONSE TO THE ILL-FATED
DINA CAMPAIGN IN MAY TO DISCREDIT THE CARDIJA INSTITUTE

(THE VELOSO/VILLA MEXICO CASE - SANTIAGO 5683).

4. ATTENDANCE WAS TIGHTLY CONTROLLED AND THE COMMUNISTS,
REPORTED TO MAINTAIN TIES WITH THE CARDIJN
PEOPLE, WERE NOTICEABLY ABSENT. WE WERE TOLD THIS WOULD
BE THE CASE.
BOYATT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: RELIGIOUS LEADERS, SPEECHES, EXTREMISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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